

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the claims to improve clarity.

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hakkinen et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2004/0202147; hereafter "Hakkinen"). Claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hakkinen. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-13 would not have been anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of the cited reference.

Independent claims 6 and 11-13 recite "an apparatus for managing radio links between at least one mobile station and the radio network controller". The claims require:

detector means arranged to detect a radio link interruption which prevents said mobile station and said radio network controller from communicating with each other via a radio link; and

control means arranged, in the event of said interruption being detected, to order said radio network controller to suspend said radio link, and then to attempt to reactivate said radio link for a predetermined time interval, and determine that said interruption is permanent if said radio link is not reactivated within said predetermined time interval.

Independent claim 1 recites similar features in method format.

With regard to the independent claims, the Examiner simply cites paragraphs [0006] and [0007] of Hakkinen for allegedly disclosing all of the features of the claimed inventions.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that it is quite clear that Hakkinen does not teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 6 and 11-13.

Hakkinen is directed to a method and apparatus for signaling to indicate to a signal-receiving entity whether a signal-transmitting entity is about to enter one or another signaling states, such as discontinuous mode or one or more active signaling modes. In particular, the method enables a Node B/base station to distinguish different states, i.e., hybrid automatic repeat request (HARQ) active states and a DTX (non-transmitting) state, of a wireless terminal (UE) in respect to use of the feedback high-speed downlink packet access (HSDPA) channel HS-DPCCH over which the UE sends acknowledgement messages (ACK/NACK) to the Node B in response to receiving packets via the HSDPA (downlink) data channel HS-DPCH.

Cited paragraphs [0006] and [0007] of Hakkinen discuss prior art communication over the HSDPA channels which occurs by transmitting frames of subframes provided during TTIs (transmission time intervals), i.e. one subframe is one TTI. When a UE is not in an HARQ active state, it enters a DTX mode. To avoid requiring that the UE transmit at a power level that for most time intervals would be unnecessarily high, the discussed prior art uses preamble and postamble signaling to more clearly enunciate to the Node B signaling associated with an HARQ active state and signaling associated with a DTX mode.

Nowhere do the cited paragraphs or any other portion of Hakkinen teach or suggest the claimed features of (1) detecting a radio link interruption which prevents a mobile station and a radio network controller from communicating with each other via a radio link, and/or (2) in the event of such an interruption being detected, ordering the radio network controller to suspend the

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radio link, and then to attempt to reactivate the radio link for a predetermined time interval, and determine that the interruption is permanent if the radio link is not reactivated within the predetermined time interval. That is, there is no mention in Hakkinen of detecting a radio link interruption, suspending the radio link, attempting to reactivate the link for a predetermined time interval and/or determining that the interruption is permanent if the time interval passes without reactivation.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-13 should be allowable because the cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 9, 2006